



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,319	08/01/2003	Yariv Aridor	6727/1H383US2	7864
7278	7590	05/19/2006	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			THAI, HANH B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2163	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,319

Applicant(s)

ARIDOR ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B. Thai

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/1/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to application filed August 1, 2003 in which claims 1-34 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 30-34 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding independent claims 30, 33 and 34, it is not clear where the preamble ends and where the body of the claim starts. These claims are not presented in a proper format.

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

3. Claims 18-20, 29 and 34 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-3 and 5 of U. S. Patent No. 6,636,848 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

The following table shows the claims in '319 (10/634,319) that are rejected by corresponding claims in '848 (6,636,848):

Claims Comparison Table:

	'319	'848
Claims	18	1
	19	2
	20	3

Art Unit: 2163

29

4

34

5

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11, 13-14, 21, 23-26 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liddy et al. (US 6,304,864).

Regarding claims 1, 21 and 30, Liddy discloses a method for searching a corpus of documents, comprising:

- Defining a knowledge domain (column 3, lines 15-17 and lines 60-64, Liddy);
- Identifying a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to the domain (column 2, lines 5-8, Liddy);
- Inputting a first query (column 3, lines 45-47);
- Searching the corpus using the set of reference documents to find one or more of the documents in the corpus that contain information in the domain relevant to the first query (column 3, lines 56-60, Liddy); and

Art Unit: 2163

- Adding at least one of the found documents to the set of reference documents for use in searching the corpus for information in the domain relevant to a second, subsequent query, which is substantially different from the first query (column 4, lines 20-27, Liddy).

Regarding claim 2, Liddy discloses the method wherein inputting the first query comprises inputting one or more search terms (column 3, lines 45-47 and lines 60-66; column 4, lines 3-7, Liddy).

Regarding claim 4, Liddy discloses the method wherein inputting the first query comprises specifying one or more documents representative of the information to be found in the corpus (column 4, lines 29-36, Liddy).

Regarding claims 5 and 23, Liddy discloses the method wherein searching the corpus comprises searching the corpus to find the documents that contain the information relevant to the query and ranking the found documents by comparing them to the set of reference documents (column 11, lines 27-35, Liddy).

Regarding claim 6, Liddy discloses method wherein ranking the found documents comprises evaluating a textual resemblance between the found documents and the reference documents (column 11, lines 27-35 and lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 7, Liddy discloses the method wherein ranking the found documents comprises assessing links between the found documents and the reference documents (column 11, lines 46-50).

Regarding claims 8 and 24, Liddy discloses the method wherein adding the at least one of the found documents comprises adding at least the document having the highest ranking (column 11, lines 42-46, Liddy).

Regarding claims 9 and 25, Liddy discloses in (Fig. 3A) the method wherein adding the at least one of the found documents comprises removing (70b) one of the documents from the set responsive to adding (70a) the at least one of the found documents (column 8, lines 43-49, Liddy).

Regarding claims 11, 26 and 31, Liddy discloses the method wherein the corpus comprises at least a part of the World Wide Web, and the documents comprises Web pages, and wherein searching the corpus comprises conveying the query to one or more Web search engines (column 5, lines 57-67 and Fig 1, Liddy).

Regarding claim 13, Liddy discloses the method wherein identifying the set of reference documents comprises opening one or more files of a knowledge base on a computer in which data regarding the reference documents are saved (column 7, lines 37-56).

Regarding claim 14, Liddy discloses the method wherein identifying the set of reference documents comprises identifying the set of documents used by a first user in searching the corpus, and wherein opening the one or more files comprises copying the files for use by a second user in searching the corpus for information in the domain (column 11, lines 27-36). Please note that the examiner regarding the files as reading on Liddy's "tables".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2163

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Liddy et al. (U.S. 6,304,864).

Regarding claim 10, Liddy discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except the step of tracking a level of relevance of the reference documents to the queries, and wherein removing the one of the documents comprises removing one of the reference documents whose tracked level of relevance is low. Liddy, however, discloses the method of retaining the reference documents whose tracked levels of relevant are high (column 11, lines 42-46). It would have been obvious to one of the skilled in the art to remove the low tracked level's relevance of the reference documents to enhance the language processor' speed.

6. Claims 3, 15-17, 22, 28 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddy et al. (U.S. 6,304,864) in view of Wical (U.S. 6,038,560).

Regarding claims 3 and 22, Liddy discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except the method wherein searching the corpus comprises finding lexical characteristics of terms in the reference documents and refining the search terms using the lexical characteristics. Wical discloses concept knowledge base search and retrieval system including finding lexical characteristics of terms in the reference documents and refining the search terms using the lexical characteristics (col.2, lines 43-50 and col.6, line 62 to col.7, line 22, Wical). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Liddy, as taught by Wical, to identify relevant terminology (column 2, line 60, Wical).

Regarding claims 15, 28 and 33, most of limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 3. Applicant's attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1 and 3 set forth above. In addition, Wilcal discloses the method:

Art Unit: 2163

- Refining the search query using the lexical characteristics (col.6, line 62 to col.7, line 22 and col. 9, lines 7-11, Wilcal); and
- Searching the corpus to find information in the domain responsive to the refined query (column 9, lines 21-24, Wilcal).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Liddy, as taught by Wical, to identify relevant terminology (column 2, line 60, Wical).

Regarding claim 16, Liddy/Wical combination discloses the method wherein finding the lexical characteristics comprises finding lexical affinities among the terms (column 9, lines 7-20, Wical).

Regarding claim 17, Liddy/Wical combination discloses the method wherein the search query comprises search terms, and wherein refining the search query comprises adding to the search terms further terms found to have lexical affinity to the search terms (column 9, lines 1-21, Wical).

7. Claims 12, 27 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddy et al. (U. S. 6,304,864) in view of Wical (U. S. 6,038,560), and further view of Bowman et al. (U. S. 6,006,225).

Regarding claims 12, 27 and 32, Liddy and Wical combination discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except wherein searching the corpus comprises searching while the device is disconnected from the Web. Bowman discloses refining search queries including the search query while the device is disconnected from the Web (column 2, lines 47-53, Bowman). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skilled in the art at the time the

Art Unit: 2163

invention was made to modify the system of Liddy and Wical, as taught by Bowman, to allow the user to refine the query (column 2, lines 1-2, Bowman).

Conclusion

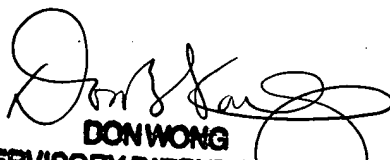
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

May 12, 2006


DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER